

## THE SIEGE OF FORT DONELSON

## Details of Three Days Desperate Fighting.

## Heavy Loss in Killed and Wounded on Both Sides.

## Terrific Fire of the Enemy on the Union Gunboats.

## THE FLOTILLA DISABLED IN THE CONFLICT.

## COMMODORE FOOTE TWICE WOUNDED.

## Gallant Conduct of the Soldiers and Sailors.

## DESPERATE COURAGE OF THE REBELS

## A Union Battery Lost and Retaken.

## The Upper Fort of the Enemy Captured and the Triumph of the Union Forces Rendered Certain.

## Names of Some of the Heroes in the Fight.

## Sketches of the Union Generals and Naval Commanders.

Etc., Etc., Etc.

The attack on Fort Donelson commenced at half-past seven o'clock on Thursday morning, February 15, by the land forces, under General Grant, Smith and McClelland, about forty thousand strong.

The rebels gave battle from their intrenchments, but they were driven in after severe fighting and considerable loss on both sides. Our troops took two of the enemy's batteries outside the fort, and held them.

Only one gunboat, the Carondelet, attacked the fort on the river front.

The fighting continued until eight o'clock at night. Eight thousand troops and five gunboats arrived the same night to reinforce the Unionists.

## Second Day.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16.

## COMMODORE FOOTE'S OFFICIAL REPORT TO THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

Washington, Feb. 16, 1862.

The following despatch was this morning received at the Navy Department from Flag Officer Foote:

Union States Flag Ship St. Louis,  
Near Fort Donelson, via Paducah, Feb. 16, 1862.

To Hon. GIBBS WILSON, Secretary of the Navy:

I made an attack on Fort Donelson yesterday at three o'clock P. M., with four iron-clad gunboats and two wooden ones, and after one hour and a quarter severe fighting, the latter part of the day within less than one hundred yards of the fort, the wheel of this vessel and the tiller of the Louisville were shot away, rendering the two boats unmanageable. They then drifted down the river. The two remaining boats were also greatly damaged between wind and water. This vessel alone received fifty-nine shots, and the others about half that number each.

There were fifty-four killed and wounded in this attack, which we have reason to suppose would, in fifteen minutes more, could the action have been continued, have resulted in the capture of the fort bearing upon us, as the enemy was running from his batteries when the two gunboats drifted helplessly down the river from disabled steering apparatus, as the relieving tactics could not steer the vessels in the strong current.

When the fleeing enemy returned to the river battery guns, from which they had been driven, they again both poured fire upon us. The enemy must have brought over twenty guns to bear upon our boats from the water battery and the main fort upon the hill, while we only could return the fire with twelve boat guns from the four boats.

One rifled gun, aboard the Carondelet, burst during the action.

The officers and men in this hotly contested, but unequal fight, behaved with the greatest gallantry and determination, all deploring the accident which rendered two of our gunboats suddenly helpless in the narrow river and swift current.

On consultation with General Grant and my own officers—as my services here until we can repair damages, by bringing up a competent force from Cairo to attack the fort, are much less required than they are at Cairo—I shall proceed to that place.

I have sent the Tyler to the Tennessee river to render the railroad bridge impassable.

A. H. FOOTE,  
Flag Officer commanding Naval Force of Western Division.

The following is a special despatch to the Missouri Democrat:

Cairo, Feb. 16—P. M.

Commodore Foote reached here at twelve o'clock last night, on board the gunboat Conestoga. He stormed Fort Donelson Friday afternoon with the gunboats St. Louis, Louisville, Pittsburg, Carondelet, Tyler and Conestoga, and, after fighting a little more than an hour, he withdrew.

Fifty-four were killed and wounded on our gunboats, pilots Riley and Hinton, of the St. Louis, being among the latter. Commodore Foote, while standing on the pilot house of the St. Louis, his flagship, was slightly wounded.

The St. Louis was hit sixty-one times. Two gunboats were disabled, the Tyler and the Conestoga, and remained out of range of the enemy's guns.

The line of battle was as follows:—The St. Louis on the right, the Louisville, then the Pittsburg and the Carondelet on the left.

The enemy's firing was very accurate. They had three batteries, one near the water, one fifty feet above this, and a third fifty feet above the second. The upper one mounted four eighteen pounders. This one was held in

reserve until our boats got within four hundred yards of the fort. Our fire was directed principally at the water battery.

One of the enemy's guns burst, and a number were dismounted. The enemy could be seen carrying the dead out of the trenches.

All the gunboats were left up the Cumberland except the Conestoga. She left there yesterday morning.

A rifled gun on the Carondelet burst, killing six men. The rudder of the Pittsburg was shot away.

The above statements of the fight were received from gentlemen who were on board the St. Louis during the engagement.

The mortar boats left here yesterday morning.

Third Day.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15.

Cairo, Feb. 16, 1862.

A gentleman who left Fort Donelson yesterday after noon at three o'clock, and reached here this noon, says the fight had been going on all day yesterday. The right wing of the enemy's fortifications was taken, and the Stars and Stripes were flying over them. The forces were breast to breast, and the fight was to be renewed.

The steamer Minnehaha has arrived here from Fort Donelson, having left the fort at five o'clock last evening, bringing the military mail and despatches, and 150 of the wounded to the hospital at Paducah.

The fight commenced on Thursday, and Friday and Saturday's contest was desperate. The Illinois Eighteenth suffered severely, and the Iowa Seventh sustained considerable loss. Swartz's battery, which was taken by the enemy, was recaptured by our men. Two columns were wounded and two killed. Loss heavy on both sides.

The upper fort was taken at four o'clock, and the Union flag is now flying over it. Our troops behaved with great gallantry.

The gunboats St. Louis, Louisville and Pittsburg were disabled.

The Minnehaha met the mortar boats at Paducah, going up.

A special despatch to the Chicago Tribune, dated Cumberland river, near Fort Donelson, 15th, says:

The firing commenced again at daylight, and continued at intervals all day long. Up to four o'clock no movement or assault by the land forces had been made. Night before last an attempt was made by the rebels to take Taylor's battery of light artillery, but they were repulsed by two regiments and driven back beyond their intrenchments. Our loss in wounded is considerable, but not more than three or four are dangerously wounded.

Six gunboats arrived yesterday, and commenced an attack on the fort at two o'clock in the afternoon. The firing was very rapid and severe, and lasted one hour and twenty minutes, when our gunboats fell back. The four iron-clad boats went within three hundred yards of the fort. All the rebel river guns, except six, were either dismounted or silenced.

The first shot fired from the gunboat Louisville dismounted the rebel's 128 pounder. The Louisville received fifty-seven shots, two of which took effect, one striking the starboard side of her deck, and passing through the entire length of the boat, killing three men and breaking her tiller rope a short distance from the pilot house. The rope was then managed by some of the hands, when a shell from the Tyler, which lay some distance astern, burst over the Louisville, scattering the men at the tiller rope, and so much disabled her steering tackle that the boat was compelled to drag astern.

A shot struck the Pittsburg in the bow and stove an immense hole in her, which caused her to drop out of the action. The leak, however, has been stopped.

A shot struck the pilot house of the St. Louis, passing through it between the pilot's legs, without injuring him. All the boats were more or less injured, but none but the Louisville seriously.

There were five killed and two wounded on the Louisville.

The gunboats will not be in a condition to renew the attack before to-morrow morning.

In consequence of the height of the bluffs on which the rebel fortifications are built, our shots cannot have as much effect on them as those at Fort Henry. It will therefore require a much longer time to reduce the fort. The rebels have raised the black flag. It can be seen flying from the bank a short distance above here.

St. Louis, Feb. 16, 1862.

Despatches received at headquarters say that all the gunboats are pretty effectually disabled except one. Commodore Foote was wounded twice, but not fatally.

The upper redoubt was taken by our troops. The commands Fort Donelson, and General Grant telegraphed that he would be able to capture that fort to day (Sunday).

Reports by Way of Washington.

Washington, Feb. 16, 1862.

A despatch was received here to-day, and there is reason to believe that a similar despatch has been sent from here, and also from Chicago, to New York, stating that the Union troops captured Fort Donelson yesterday. This despatch is premature.

Official despatches have been received in relation to the withdrawal of the gunboats for repairs, and this evening a despatch reached headquarters, with the information that the battle was being waged with desperate courage and interplay between the rebel and Union troops on land. One of our field batteries had been taken by the enemy, but immediately afterwards was retaken by a gallant charge of the Nineteenth Indiana regiment, and our troops had carried the Upper Fort by assault, and at the latest accounts—Saturday afternoon—were in possession of it. The guns were spiked, but it was expected they would be put in order and used for a flank fire upon the Lower Fort by this morning.

It is believed here that the number of the rebel forces in and around Fort Donelson is nearer to thirty than fifteen thousand, at which it has been previously estimated.

General McClelland and his personal aid, Col. Colburn, have been to-day constantly in communication with General Halleck. No apprehensions are entertained of the arrival of rebel reinforcements at Fort Donelson in time to render any assistance to the besieged.

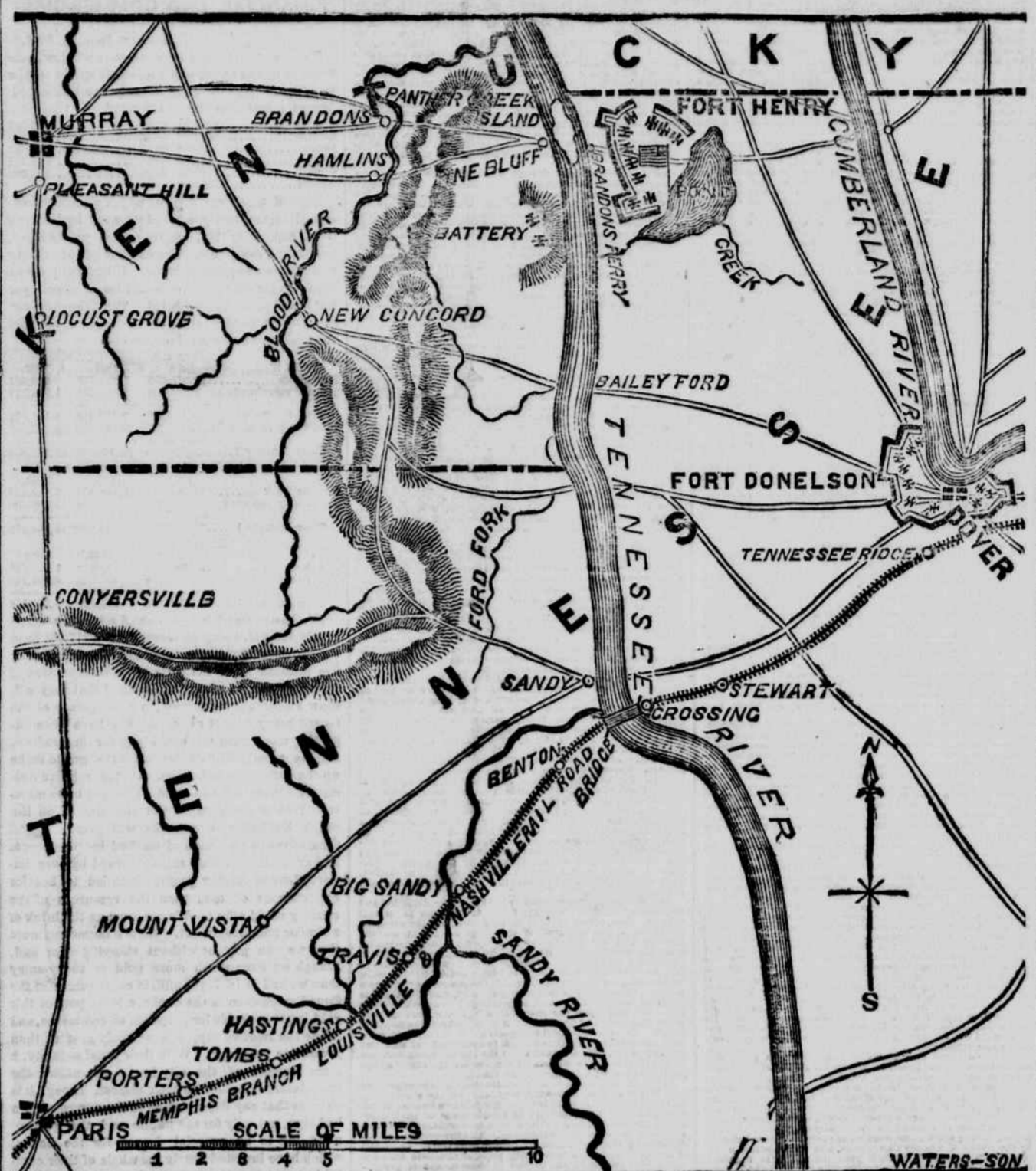
The General Commanding is entirely satisfied with the progress of the siege of Fort Donelson. He expresses confidence that it will be captured by the Union troops. While the repulse of our troops at that point would not materially affect the general plan of the campaign on our side, its capture would greatly disconcert and cripple and hem in the enemy, and increase their present consternation into a terrible rout on all sides.

Among the facts taken into consideration by army officers here, in their calculations upon the result of the siege of Fort Donelson, is the impossibility of the rebels obtaining a fresh supply of ammunition when their present stock is exhausted, and the facilities enjoyed by our forces for supplies of every description.

No further despatches have been received directly from Bowling Green, but it is believed at headquarters

## FORT DONELSON, TENN.

## The Scene of General Grant and Commodore Foote's Latest Achievement.



that the whole Union force in Kentucky is following close upon the rebels who have retired from Bowling Green, and that the former will probably proceed without serious interruption to Nashville and Knoxville, and thus cut off the rebel force in Virginia from that in Tennessee, and have the latter between two fires, without the benefit of fortifications.

## THE UNION TROOPS ENGAGED.

The following list of officers comprises the staff of the generals and the field officers of some of the regiments engaged in the fight:

## MILITARY COMMANDER OF EXPEDITION.

ACT. MAJOR GENERAL, Brig. Gen. ULYSSES S. GRANT.

Staff.

Chief of Staff, Col. J. D. Webster.

Chief of Engineers, Captain John A. Rawlings.

Asst. Adjutant General, Captain Clark B. Ingow.

Asst. Adjutant General, Captain Wm. S. Hilyer.

Volunteer Aid, Major John H. Ryan, Jr.

Chief Quartermaster, Captain R. B. Hatch.

Chief Commissary, Captain W. F. Leiland.

Quartermaster, Captain W. F. Leiland.

Medical Director, Surgeon James S. S. A. Medical Purveyor, Asst. Surg. J. P. Taggart, U. S. A.

Third Major, Major J. N. Cook.

COMMANDER OF FIRST DIVISION.

ACT. MAJOR GENERAL, Brig. Gen. JOHN A. MCCLELLAND.

Staff.

Asst. Adjutant General, Major Mason Brayman.

Chief of Artillery, Captain Adolph Schwartz.

Brigade Surgeon, Dr. John H. Hynton.

Engineer, Lieutenant H. C. Freeman.

Quartermaster, Captain James Dunlap.

Commissary, Captain Spencer C. Beahm.

FIRST DIVISION.

ACTING BRIGADIER GENERAL, Colonel R. J. COLBERT.

Composition of Brigade.

Seventh regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Eight regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Eighteenth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Twenty-second regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Twenty-ninth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Thirtieth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Thirty-first regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Two batteries of artillery.

Two batteries of cavalry.

SECOND BRIGADE.

ACTING BRIGADIER GENERAL, Colonel H. L. WALLACE.

Composition of Brigade.

Eleventh regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Twentieth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Forty-fifth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Forty-sixth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Forty-seventh regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Forty-eighth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Forty-ninth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Fifty-first regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Fifty-second regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Fifty-third regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Fifty-fourth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Fifty-fifth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Fifty-sixth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Fifty-seventh regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Fifty-eighth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Fifty-ninth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Sixty-first regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Sixty-second regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Sixty-third regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Sixty-fourth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Sixty-fifth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Sixty-sixth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Sixty-seventh regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Sixty-eighth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Sixty-ninth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Seventy-first regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Seventy-second regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Seventy-third regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Seventy-fourth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Seventy-fifth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Seventy-sixth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Seventy-seventh regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Seventy-eighth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Seventy-ninth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Eighty-first regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Eighty-second regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Eighty-third regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Eighty-fourth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Eighty-fifth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Eighty-sixth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Eighty-seventh regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Eighty-eighth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Eighty-ninth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Ninety-first regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Ninety-second regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Ninety-third regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Ninety-fourth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Ninety-fifth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Ninety-sixth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Ninety-seventh regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Ninety-eighth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

Ninety-ninth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and first regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and second regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and third regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and fourth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and fifth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and sixth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and seventh regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and eighth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and ninth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and tenth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and eleventh regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and twelfth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and thirteenth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and fourteenth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and fifteenth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and sixteenth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and seventeenth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and eighteenth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and nineteenth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and twentieth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and twenty-first regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and twenty-second regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and twenty-third regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and twenty-fourth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and twenty-fifth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and twenty-sixth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and twenty-seventh regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and twenty-eighth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and twenty-ninth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and thirtieth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and thirty-first regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and thirty-second regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and thirty-third regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and thirty-fourth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and thirty-fifth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and thirty-sixth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and thirty-seventh regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and thirty-eighth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and thirty-ninth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and fortieth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and forty-first regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and forty-second regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and forty-third regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and forty-fourth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and forty-fifth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and forty-sixth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and forty-seventh regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and forty-eighth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and forty-ninth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and fiftieth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and fifty-first regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and fifty-second regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and fifty-third regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and fifty-fourth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and fifty-fifth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and fifty-sixth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and fifty-seventh regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and fifty-eighth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and fifty-ninth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and sixtieth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and sixty-first regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and sixty-second regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and sixty-third regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and sixty-fourth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and sixty-fifth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and sixty-sixth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and sixty-seventh regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and sixty-eighth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and sixty-ninth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and seventieth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and seventy-first regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and seventy-second regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and seventy-third regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and seventy-fourth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and seventy-fifth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and seventy-sixth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and seventy-seventh regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and seventy-eighth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and seventy-ninth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and eightieth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and eighty-first regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and eighty-second regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and eighty-third regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and eighty-fourth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and eighty-fifth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and eighty-sixth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and eighty-seventh regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and eighty-eighth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and eighty-ninth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and ninetieth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and ninety-first regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.

One hundred and ninety-second regiment Illinois volunteer infantry.